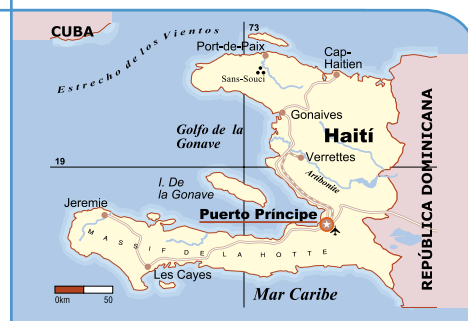


Capital: Puerto Príncipe
Population: 9.751.432 h
Adult literacy: 52,9%
Life expectancy: 61 años

Haiti



Haiti - a response that begs for a question

Fortunately, there are people who remember what life was like for Haitians on January 11, 2010. It seems that they have existed only to record their death, but that's not so, there were already millions of Haitians who were surviving long before that date. Not all, but some, were living it up, like the residents of the modern, affluent suburb of Pétion Ville, in Port au Prince, who have now continued doing so after the 13th of January.



All of which makes us think that the blame for what happened does not lie with nature, which, since it can not defend itself, is an easy target. The country was already devastated, but now it is convenient to give a decontextualized account of the tragedy, and ask ourselves with credible surprise «Why has God allowed this to happen?», instead of asking every human being «How could you allow so many other people to live in such impoverished conditions that they are totally incapable of coping with the action of nature?»

The theologian, Juan Antonio Estrada says: And Where is God? We keep on expecting divine miracles that will change the course of nature; we appeal to Providence to intervene in natural disasters; we pray and beg for signs and wonders. And God remains silent and does not do as we hope. We do not learn from history. God did not drop the cross on Golgotha; God did not intervene to prevent Auschwitz; nor will God prevent the catastrophes to come.

It is inconceivable that we Christians continue waiting for miraculous interventions, like those that were seen in Jesus' time, rather than assuming the responsibilities of adulthood, of humanity's coming of age, and recognizing the autonomy of the universe, whose laws we are coming to know more and more intimately each day.

God is the author of the story, in as much as He inspires and motivates people to act in solidarity and justice, but human beings make their own decisions.

What we do find is God identifying Himself with the victims and calling to us for solidarity and justice. His call is answered in so many people who are so generous with their time and money -- those who want to be His hands and feet.

In a few months Haiti will be a mere memory, much like the tsunami that devastated Indonesia and the famines that have plagued sub-Saharan Africa.



The great tragedy of the twenty-first century is that of a humanity that has the resources to end hunger and mitigate natural disasters, but prefers to use its wealth to buy weapons to defend itself against the poor; with police to prevent them from getting to our treasure islands; not to mention the wasteful consumption in a minority of countries.

The calamity that happened in Haiti might well happen in many other countries, something that demands a response, one that is not only an answer, but also one that raises the right question.

Prayer: «I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer»

Lord, as we lay sleeping all these years, the Haitian people were apprehended and convicted. They had trudged in front of us, carrying their cross and we could not forestall their Golgotha. Lord, on these days you are bonded with them and many others, feeling above all the pain of abandonment.

I want to walk with You, Lord. Place me in the hands of our Father; entrust me to Him, so that His will be done, not mine.